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# Settlement of Ellicott's Mills,

With Fragments of History therewith Connected.




BY

MARTHA E. TYSON.

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A BRIEF ACCOUNT

OF THE

# Settlement of Ellicott's Mills,

With Fragments of History therewith Connected.



WRITTEN AT THE REQUEST OF EVAN T. ELlicOTT,

By MARTHA E. TYSON.

Baltimore, 1865.

READ BEFORE THE MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Nov. 3, 1870.

PRINTED BY JOHN MURPHY,  
PRINTER TO THE MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY,  
BALTIMORE, JANUARY, 1871.

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**T**HE first Colonists of Lord Baltimore arrived in Maryland in 1634, and for more than one hundred years afterwards, the resources of the country were either misunderstood or were not appreciated. The statistics of the trade of those primitive times exhibit a very small list of exports, and amongst these, tobacco holds the chief place, and was almost the only article cultivated for foreign markets. Indian corn and wheat were raised for domestic purposes, but the last named grain only in small quantities, exclusively by wealthy planters for their private tables.

The earliest observable change in the agricultural system of Maryland, was occasioned by a purchase made in 1772, by the brothers Joseph, Andrew and John Ellicott, of lands and mill-sites on the Patapsco river, 10 miles west of Baltimore, and by the building of their mills for grinding

wheat and other grains. The purchase embraced the lands, on both sides of the Patapsco, for four miles in extent, and included all the water power within that distance, being two miles above and two below the Mills, but the amount of land in acres contained in the purchase cannot now be estimated with correctness.

These gentlemen were descended from an old and respectable family of Devonshire, England, and were in possession of their property in the time of the conqueror, William of Normandy. They were the sons of Andrew Ellicott, who emigrated to Buck's county, in 1730. Before making a settlement in Maryland, they had travelled on horseback over the middle counties of the Province then subject to Great Britain, and at length decided on the choice they made, by the character of the land which lies between the Patapsco river and the Blue Ridge mountains, which they conjectured would produce abundant crops of wheat; the result has confirmed the correctness of their conclusions.

The emigration from Pennsylvania was attended by many cares and anxieties, but the brothers were men in the prime of life, of sound judgment and foresight, and, seeming to see the end from the beginning, never faltered in their enterprize. The wagons, carts, wheelbarrows and handbarrows, and all their mechanical and agricultural implements,



with the household goods for the families of their workmen, and the draft horses necessary for the work they were about to commence, were put on board a vessel in the port of Philadelphia, and taken down the Delaware to New Castle, and there landed. The wagons and carts were then loaded with the articles brought down in the vessel and driven across the Peninsula to the head of Elk, where they were again embarked on a vessel which lay waiting for them, and which, afterwards, moving along the Chesapeake bay, to the Patapsco, proceeded up that river to Elkridge Landing, which had been laid out as a town in 1734, and where vessels of light draft could readily enter.

\*Baltimore, by an Act of Assembly, was made a town in 1729, and was to be a privileged place of landing, loading, and receiving goods; but Elkridge Landing continued to be in favor as a place of deposit and business for years afterwards and in old manuscripts is called Patapsco. At this point the Ellicotts finally discharged their cargo, the wagons and carts were reloaded, and passing over a narrow rough country road to within one mile of their destination, were obliged to stop on account of the precipices and rocks which rendered their way to the site contemplated for the mills, impassible. Here the wagons and carts were unloaded, and their

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\* See Griffith's Annals.

contents carried by parties of men, on handbarrows, to the end of the journey; the same men after taking the wagons and carts to pieces carried them, in detached portions, to their place of occupation. Arrived in the valley, or, as the country people called this wild place, "The Hollow," from its peculiar formation; the work of improvement was at once commenced, and pressed on with so much spirit that by the time of harvest in 1774, a house one hundred feet long and of proportionate breadth and height, with spacious chambers for the storage of grain, was finished; it contained machinery combining all the prominent inventions of Joseph, Andrew and John Ellicott, and was ready to manufacture the finest wheat flour as well as other brands; a small village of comfortable houses had also been raised up. This manufactory for flour, after years of usefulness, was destroyed by fire in the early part of the year 1809.

The first dwelling built by the Ellicotts was a large, rude mansion, made of logs, on the eastern side of the river, to accommodate the mechanics and laborers who had come on from Pennsylvania; it contained many apartments and was a boarding house for them, their wives and children, till other houses were built. The families of the proprietors of the property were reluctant to leave Pennsylvania; that of John Ellicott came on after the mills were in operation, but

Andrew Ellicott's family did not arrive there until 1794. He went back and forth several times in the course of a year, and generally on horseback. His dwelling in Buck's county was a large and very comfortable building, and though long since passed into other hands is yet in good preservation.

On the completion of the cabin for the workmen, the erection of a saw mill was the first object, and by this saw mill all the lumber needed for the other houses was prepared; these were built of stone, with the exception of a frame house which stands near the bridge over the Patapsco on its western side.\* Quarries of granite were immediately on the ground, and of beautiful quality; but the implements used for blasting rocks, cutting down trees, digging out foundations, and for other laborious purposes had been brought from Pennsylvania, where, as in other colonies of Great Britain, they were regularly imported. The only iron tools manufactured in Baltimore county were crow-bars, which, through the favor of the proprietors of Dorsey's Forge, named Avalon, were afterwards purchased from that iron works, also situated on the Patapsco, near Elkridge Landing.

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\*This building was erected for the accommodation of the workmen engaged in the wheelwright shop of the company, and for other laborers on the western side of the river. Every vestige of it was carried away by the great flood of 1868. Note added by the author in 1870.

The brothers Ellicott, Joseph, Andrew and John Ellicott, transacted their business under the firm of Ellicott & Co. When they took possession of their seats on the Patapsco, the whole valley was a wilderness covered with great trees, the growth of centuries; oaks, of different sorts, hickory, maple, gum, ash, chesnut, and all other varieties common to the climate. In the midst of this forest on the level ground were the dog wood, the red bud, spice wood, prickly ash, alder, elder, and other shrubs, clustered so thickly together it was often necessary for men, when exploring the ground, to cut away a path with axes. This close undergrowth made the district a favorite resort of small game of every description, whilst in near proximity, but on more open ground, great herds of deer and wild turkeys were often met. This remained to be a usual occurrence until the noise made by improvements in the neighborhood, the blasting of rocks, and other evidences of approaching civilization drove them from their haunts; but deer were killed in the vicinity until 1773.

Wherever it was possible, the proprietors of the Mills, in accordance with the fine taste for the beauties of nature, for which they were distinguished, spared from the axe all the most perfect groups of native trees, wherever they grew, either in the midst of their fields, or on the banks of the river, or beside its small tributary streams. For

more than fifty years after they commenced their settlement, they thus controlled and cherished these remains of the wild Maryland forest, for the distance of their purchase, which as before related embraced four miles in length on each side of the Patapsco; they continued to flourish, and when the hills and fields had been made fertile by cultivation, their stately and luxuriant beauty gave an added charm to a landscape very justly celebrated for its attractions.

Within a short distance from the river, and immediately opposite to the Mills, was a spring of cool soft water in the midst of a grove of great trees. Of this spring, the early emigrants transmitted a tradition that the Indians used to pitch their tents near it, when they came down from the upland country to fish, in the spring of the year; shad and herring were taken in large quantities as high up the Patapsco, as Elysville, until mill dams obstructed their passage. Paths, worn by the foot-steps of the red people of many generations, were clearly traceable in the vicinity until 1828, and stone tomahawks, stone axes and arrow points were also found there. From the great number of arrow points picked up on the ground where the depot of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, for the accommodation of the people of Ellicott's Mills, is erected, it was generally supposed that a great

Indian battle had been fought there before the arrival of the white men in the country. The spring and its overshadowing trees, and the paths of which we have spoken remained intact, until the pioneers of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, in the year 1828, with opinions centering more on matters of utility than those of natural beauty, or the remains of other days, changed the whole scene by their labors.

We have remarked that Ellicott & Co. having commenced the building of their Patapsco mills, in 1772, were ready to grind wheat and other grains at the end of the year 1774.\* Whilst this engagement was in progress, they cut down the greater part of the timber on the hills near them,

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\* We append an extract from the first ledger of Ellicott & Co., in confirmation of this statement :

Sold to WM. LUX BOWLY,

1774, Dec. 4th, 100 barrels of flour, at 17s. and charges.

“ “ 13th, 100 “ “ at 17s. “ “

“ “ 20th, 100 “ “ at 17s. “ “

The gentleman alluded to as the purchasing party in these transactions, had a warehouse and place of residence at Elkridge Landing. Other purchases by Wm. Lux Bowly, are recorded in after years, at higher prices; in 1777, the price of flour per barrel is charged at £2, 8s. 6d. and charges. Beautiful residences were added to the small town of Elkridge Landing immediately after the termination of the Revolutionary war, with handsome grounds, flower gardens, and gravel walks; but as Baltimore rose to eminence, and was also in a more healthful location, Elkridge Landing declined.

A household book of one of the families of Ellicott's Mills, gives the following prices for different sorts of provisions, in 1774 :

Bacon, 2s. 6d. per pound; turkeys, 4d. per pound; chickens, 4d. per pound; butter, 9d. per pound; beef and pork, 3d. per pound. At the same time a man's wages per day, was 20d.



cleared out the stumps, plowed and sowed their grain, and proved that good crops could be raised upon the land; the first wheat they manufactured into flour was the product of their own fields, and, the best, and for several years their only supply was from this source, the neighboring planters of Elkridge and Upton, being unwilling to abandon the cultivation of tobacco, without a positive assurance that wheat and corn would yield them a larger profit. As before observed, wheat was raised by the opulent only in quantities for their own tables, and ground at a small mill near Elkridge Landing. Corn was ground in hand mills for the use of their negroes; hominy also was beaten by hand. The operations, therefore, of the Ellicotts, were regarded by these old residents as wild and visionary in the extreme, and notwithstanding the integrity, ability, and liberality exhibited by them, they were looked upon by the planters near them with distrust, who remained firm in the determination never to unite with their views regarding a change of crops, nor in their enterprises of road making and bridge building, nor in their other projects of a public nature. But a time arrived when different views were presented to these opponents of progress, and when the men who had been considered as extravagant and fanatical, came to be regarded as wise, sober-minded and practical citizens; they were con-

sulted in regard to business affairs on all occasions of importance, and were repeatedly solicited to accept of civil offices, which were at the disposal of the people. These they uniformly declined. Whilst this change had been taking place in the minds of the conservative men of the period, the Ellicotts remained undismayed by the opinions entertained of them, and continued their work. Influenced by the maxim which teaches, "a demand will create a supply," they went on to offer fair prices for wheat, to encourage and enforce by example, a different mode of agriculture, to make roads and build bridges, and in the end to change the whole farming system within reach of their example; but all these improvements cost a large sum of money.

At their own expense, they opened a road for wagons from their mills to Baltimore, a distance of ten miles, and on its completion laid out a road to Frederick town, which united at Ellicott's Mills with their road to Baltimore. The construction of these roads were after a survey of George Ellicott, a son of one of the members of the firm of Ellicott & Co., then in his minority, a youth of seventeen years of age. Maps of these routes, by his own hand, are still extant. The road to Frederick passed by Carroll's Manor, and to this point, was constructed wholly by the liberality of Ellicott & Co.



When Charles Carroll affixed his signature to the great instrument which has given celebrity to his name, he was considered the richest capitalist in the Colonies. His revenues were afterwards greatly increased, after his judgment had convinced him that a crop of wheat, taking all expenses into consideration, was more profitable than the cultivation of tobacco. In this respect he had yielded to the current of progress, and changed his mode of agriculture, not only on the Manor, from which he derived his title of Carroll of Carrollton, but also on his more productive Manor, on the river Monocasy, in Frederick county.

At the time of which we write he was considered the great banker of Maryland, loaning his money on good securities, to those who were less favored than himself by what has been termed "the gifts of fortune."

Before deriving from their business as millers any return for the expenses they had incurred, Ellicott & Co. were amongst the number who had money transactions with Charles Carroll, and mortgaged a part of their lands in security; such mutual accommodation having been necessary in the absence of the present banking system; our pioneer bank, the Bank of Maryland, not having commenced operations until 1790. The Bank of Baltimore was chartered five years after, in 1795.

As an evidence of the mode of transacting banking business in the early days of our Republic, we append a note from Charles Carroll of Carrollton, to one of the parties alluded to above. The reader will observe that it is written in a style of courtesy not often practised by the bankers of the present time:

To Mr. JOHN ELLICOTT,

Sr.

*July 9th, 1777.*

If it be not too inconvenient to you, I Expect the Money due on our Agreement, on the third of next month :

I am,

Sr. yr. mo: Hum: Servt.,

CHA: CARROLL.

The road from Baltimore by Ellicott's Mills as far as Carroll's Manor, was made wholly, as before stated, at the expense of the owners of the Mills; from the Manor to Frederick all the engineering and management rested with them, but after leaving the Manor they encountered individuals whose plantations lay on their route who were willing to unite with them in the charges. For the accommodation of the laborers engaged in the service, they built a house on wheels which was drawn from place to place by horses, being the first movable building seen in Maryland; it contained conveniences for cooking everything but bread, which

was always baked and forwarded from the Mills, from the kitchen of John Ellicott, one of the members of the firm, and whose dwelling, still a pleasant home, may be seen with 1772 on one of its gables. This movable building besides the means of cooking, contained beds and bedding, and was besides a shelter for the men in rough weather. All these laborers were from Pennsylvania, such as were married had houses in the village of Ellicott's Mills, and many of them were members of the Society of Friends.

Immediately on the completion of their family residences, and the erection of the stables for the draft horses, which were capable of accommodating eighty horses or more, Ellicott & Co. built a school house for the children of the village and the adjacent neighborhood. A school was regularly kept therein by the best teachers they could procure, and at a good salary, which was insured to them, whether the number of their pupils were large or small. Into this school, all of suitable age were admitted irrespective of the means of their parents, any deficiency in this respect being supplied by the owners of the property. In this way many, who otherwise would have grown up in ignorance, received a fair amount of instruction in all the most useful branches of education.

The last building erected in the village, before 1790, by Ellicott & Co., was their warehouse or

storehouse, and was built directly opposite to the mills, of triangular stone, from the granite quarries near them, and immediately on the route from Baltimore to Frederick; all the other buildings in the vicinity were the work of Pennsylvanians, but this warehouse was different in style from them all, and was the work of Maryland masons, the Spicers, of Harford county. Externally, it remains unchanged, but the interior arrangements have been transformed into dwellings for private families.

This store and warehouse was built for the accommodation of a variety of articles, with apartments ordered to suit them, and was considered at that day to be commodious and complete. Articles of fine quality were kept on shelves, behind sashes of glass, and in drawers to protect them from dust. The whole establishment was liberally patronized from the care taken in the selection of the goods; a great change had then taken place in the condition of the planters in the vicinity, who, instead of cultivating tobacco, and awaiting the slow returns of European agents, now raised wheat and corn for which they found a market near them; such goods also as they had been accustomed to order themselves from London, they could purchase at the store of Ellicott & Co., at as fair a rate of prices. The goods were selected with care by agents who visited New York and

Philadelphia, for the purpose; from whence they were shipped, and before colonial habits had ceased to operate, the cargo was discharged at Elkridge Landing. By such means, linens and diapers of fine and coarse qualities; silks, satins and brocades; India china dinner and tea sets, mirrors and other glassware, mathematical instruments, iron-mongery and groceries, including liquors\* and wines, were always on sale. Before the Revolution, Great Britain offered every facility to American merchants to deal in her native commodities, or those of her East Indian possessions, facilities of which they readily availed themselves.

After the Independence of the United States was secured, Ellicott & Co. imported more extensively, and sometimes sent directly to London for goods by an agent, Samuel Godfrey, an Englishman by birth, who afterwards became a partner in the store.

The traveller of the present time, in passing near this old building, which, as before observed, is directly on the road from Baltimore to Frederick, would not be apt to imagine that for a long series of years it was a place of resort for all the influential men from miles around, who came to sell their grain, to make purchases, to receive their

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\*The Society of Friends dealt in liquors until the Discipline, which made it a disownable offence was introduced, and carried out in practice.

letters and papers from the post office, which was opened in one of its chambers, or to discuss political, legal or scientific questions. The pleasure of these habitual gatherings was much enhanced, by the fine abilities and character of the Ellicotts, of whom we write, men, who were not only well read on all such subjects, but who combined therewith courteous manners, earnestness in pursuit of knowledge, and becoming gravity.

On the completion of the public highway between Baltimore and Frederick, and subsequent to the Revolution, but previous to the initiation of the penitentiary system, the roads were kept in order by the "wheelbarrow men." This class of people were men who having been tried in the Courts of Law, and convicted of crimes unworthy of capital punishment, were condemned to employment on any of the public works. They labored together in small companies, each company having an overseer, who had been selected for tried bravery, strength, intelligence and industry, and who, besides wearing side arms, also carried a musket. These overseers were occasionally exacting and cruel to the convicts, who failed not to take revenge for their wrongs as opportunities presented. Depots for their accommodation, built of logs, were set up several miles apart in the districts where the "wheelbarrow men" were detailed to work, where their meals were pre-



pared—and they were locked in at night. One of these depots, five miles from Baltimore, on the the Frederick road, was standing until 1831, and continued to be pointed out as the spot, where, on two occasions, an overseer had been murdered with bludgeons by the men under his charge. The murderers were tried, condemned, and executed.

Before the year 1783, the supply of wheat from the counties of Anne Arundel and Frederick, having so much increased, the proprietors of Ellicott's Mills, in anticipation of a peace with Great Britain, and the conclusion of the Revolutionary war, determined to make preparations for exporting their flour. They therefore purchased a water lot, and built their first wharf at the corner of Pratt and Light streets, and as the Susquehanna river had not then begun to furnish any supply of lumber, the logs used for its construction were from trees cut down on the banks of Curtis' creek, which empties into the Patapsco, a few miles above its mouth, and were brought to Baltimore, in a schooner. This creek has always been noted for the unhealthfulness of its shores, and years after the wharf had ceased to be a novelty, old men who had been engaged in furnishing the logs of which it was built, had painful recollections of the bilious fevers and the agues, contracted during the engagement. The wharves of other citizens of the period, Spear, Smith and Buchanan, were also built in

1783. The Ellicotts filled up their wharf in part with stone found in the vicinity, and in part with sediment removed from the bottom of the dock, (in order to deepen its waters,) which was taken up by a drag with iron scoops, drawn by horses.\* The scoops when filled were raised by a windlass. This was the first attempt made in Maryland to deepen the water in any harbor, and "Mud Machines," after the idea we have described, but much improved by Cruse and Colvers, and other ingenious men, have ever since been in operation to remove the deposits made by Jones' Falls, and Gwynn's Falls, which otherwise would impede navigation.

After the completion of the wharf and the building of the warehouses for the storage of the flour from Ellicott's Mills, Elias Ellicott, a son of Andrew Ellicott, of the firm of Ellicott & Co., became a resident of Baltimore, and built his dwelling (a house which is still standing) on the corner of Sharp and Lombard Streets. Other members of the family, though residing at the Mills, made almost daily visits to town, considering it a small effort to ride over the road on horseback a distance of ten miles, morning and evening.

For many years after the farms of the Ellicotts were in cultivation, they gave attention to raising

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\*This account is corroborated by a statement in Griffith's Annals of Baltimore, written in 1824.



apples, and planted orchards, on both sides of the river, of trees from the nurseries of Pennsylvania. William Penn, amidst all his other cares for the welfare and comfort of his province, had encouraged the propagation of fruits suited to the climate, and furnished supplies for the purpose. The apples of Pennsylvania were at once greatly appreciated in Maryland, where, until the orchards we have referred to were brought into notice, the people had for summer only two or three sorts of white apples, the long stem for autumn use, and the black redstreak and the red redstreak for a winter stock. Ellicott & Co. in order to provide a more convenient supply of young grafted trees for their neighbors, added nurseries to their gardens, and of these they gave freely to all applicants, confining themselves to the cultivation of apple trees only, having learned that peach, pear, plum and cherry trees could not bear the frosts of their valley. To attend to the gardens and nurseries, which were kept in nice order, they employed an English gardener, who had assistants.

We have remarked on a former page, that for several years after the Ellicotts commenced their operations as millers, they were dependant on their own fields for a supply of wheat, and as these fields were all hilly and liable to suffer in dry weather, they practiced as a measure of necessity the most

approved mode of irrigation. For this purpose they dug out reservoirs in convenient places, which were supplied with water from springs in the hills; the water was brought to the fields in ditches which were suffered to overflow the grounds when they needed moisture, whilst at other times, the springs were allowed to run in their natural channels, being only turned into the reservoirs in seasons of drought. By this process of irrigation, good crops of wheat, corn and hay, were secured in the dryest seasons. Traces of the ditches for conveying the water to the fields and the position of one of the reservoirs still remain.

From the year of the first occupation of their property in Maryland, the Ellicotts kept their attention steadily fixed on their first purpose, the enlargement and development of the resources of Maryland, and made use of all the means in their power to advance the interests of Baltimore as the trading mart of the Chesapeake. Whilst thus engaged they seem to have had a higher aim than their own personal aggrandizement. This feature in their history must become apparent to those who have read their letters and other writings, or made observations on their character or conduct. After Maryland became an independent State, and was represented by men of her own choice in the Capitol, at Annapolis, the brothers, on all occasions of importance to the interests of the people,

were seen there, in order to soften political asperities amongst our lawgivers, and use their influence in endeavoring to produce a course of wise and just legislation. These excursions to Annapolis were made on horseback, and were at the time said to occupy a day; we should now, however, consider that they employed one day and the half of two nights; leaving the Mills at midnight, and arriving at the Capitol in time for breakfast, they would spend the day there, as long as the representatives were in session, and return at midnight to their homes;\* after a few hours repose, they were ready the next morning, at sunrise, to attend to their individual concerns at the Mills, or to ride to Baltimore. The brothers all possessed great physical vigor.

At the time now spoken of, there were very few carriages in Maryland, and these few were rarely used owing to the bad condition of the roads. This circumstance brought first rate saddle horses into request, by persons who were willing to own such property. They were generally selected for their speed, easy gait, and gentleness, without regard to their form or color.

Immediately after the introduction of turnpike roads, (the turnpike from Baltimore to Frederick having been commenced in 1805,) carriages were

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\* Annapolis was distant from Ellicotts' Mills 32 miles.

brought into every day use, and riding on horseback, except for pleasure or recreation, was therefore unnecessary.

The only public roads passable for any wheeled vehicle when the Ellicotts came to Maryland, were those from Frederick to Baltimore, and from Frederick to Annapolis. When the road was opened from Frederick to Annapolis, that port commanded the greater part of the trade of the bay. The road from Frederick to Baltimore passed over the Patapsco, three miles above Ellicott's Mills, and was first used as an outlet for the flaxseed and domestic produce of Frederick county, as early as 1760. A road from Sandy Spring, a settlement commenced by James Brooke, in 1726, entered into the old road or first road from Frederick to Baltimore, at Porter's tavern, distant from the last named place, eighteen miles.

There were, however, private roads communicating with different neighborhoods, familiarly called "bridle roads," used exclusively for foot or horseback travellers. "Rolling roads" were also common, and were opened for the transit of tobacco hogsheads, (by the planters who did not live on navigable streams,) from their lands, to Elkridge Landing, and elsewhere; Elkridge Landing was the favorite depot of the planters of Elkridge and Upton, from whence their tobacco was taken in vessels of light draft, sometimes directly to

London, at other times to Annapolis, or to Joppa. Many commercial transactions were then carried on between Joppa and London, which old bills of lading still attest. Joppa was the seat of Baltimore County Court, the Court being held there from 1712 to 1773.\* This small town was for a long time, the rival of Baltimore, and the Commissioners of the Port dated their papers from White Haven; these are preserved in some old records, but the name of White Haven has long been lost sight of in the vicinity.

In order to pass the tobacco hogsheads safely over the "rolling roads," it was necessary that they should be made and hooped in the strongest manner; the tobacco after being dried and stripped from the stems was packed tightly in the hogsheads, and "headed" up; these were then rolled over and over by two men to each hogshead, to the place of shipment. The "rolling roads" were generally of a round about description, from the necessity of avoiding hills, and though long out of use, could be distinctly traced on Elkridge, after 1820. Several roads of this description are still distinguishable in Harford county.

Harford county was, until 1769, a part of Baltimore county. For the convenience of voters, in 1769, Baltimore county was divided into two parts,

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\*See M'Mahon's Hist. of Maryland, and Griffith's Annals.



the western part retaining the name of Baltimore, whilst the eastern part was called after the Proprietary of the province, Harford.

All the members of the Ellicott family who adopted Maryland as their future home, belonged to the Society of Friends. Maryland had been an asylum for Friends from an early period of their history; they had been influenced to leave England, and make settlements both on the eastern and western shores of the Chesapeake bay, by the beneficent charter of Lord Baltimore, its first Proprietor, which was granted in 1634. George Fox had not then commenced his labors, but in 1669, converts to the faith he promulgated, were sufficiently numerous to build meeting houses, and occupy them for the purpose of worship, and also for meetings for discipline. Records of the religious proceedings of those primitive times, are yet in good preservation.

When the Ellicotts came to Maryland, they were at once received by a body of Friends who had a meeting house at Elkridge, about a mile from Illechester, on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad; they attended the meetings twice every week. The Friends of the neighborhood were the Pierponts, the Haywards, the Reads, and others; all these attended the monthly meeting of the Friends of Indian Spring, in what is now called Prince George's county, near the Patuxent

river, and to this monthly meeting the Ellicotts brought certificates of membership from Buckingham monthly meeting, Pennsylvania, in 1774.

Besides the attention which the members of the firm of Ellicott & Co. bestowed upon their individual interests, as we have previously hinted, they were ever active in patronizing all rational designs for the improvement of Maryland, and her inhabitants. Their essays on such subjects, published when necessary, to encourage the establishment of public schools, making good turnpike roads, and rendering our rivers navigable, were always respectfully received and read with attention, and were not without influence, particularly in regard to the extension of the national turnpike over the Allegany mountains, the greatest work of the kind on the American continent, at the time. The introduction of railroads, however, has placed in the background these laborious avenues for transportation. They had always been the strenuous advocates of both private and public schools, from the very nature of their patriotism, which, since Maryland had become one of the free, sovereign, and independent States referred to in the Declaration of Independence of 1776, had taught them that the rights and interests of free men could be entrusted with safety only to educated and enlightened people. We have noticed their care in keeping up a school from their first occu-

pation of their lands on the Patapsco. This concern, in regard to education, did not abate with years, but was strengthened by experience, and often manifested; their last act on behalf of schools, being a gift of seven acres of their woodland forest, as a site for the Patapsco Female Institute. The idea embraced in the regulations of the Institute, which empowers the principal of that establishment, annually to educate eight girls, for which they are to be paid out of the treasury of the State of Maryland, was a suggestion of George Ellicott. Some acres have since been added to the land by purchase, but the foundation on which the building stands, and the beautiful and commanding grounds immediately around the Institute, were all the gift of the Ellicotts, in 1829.

In referring to the cultivation of their fields by Ellicott & Co., we ought not to omit to mention the benefit they derived from the use of plaster of Paris. Of the time of their first experiment with this fertilizer, we cannot speak with certainty, but they were so successfully demonstrated as to induce a number of their most respectable neighbors to remain in Maryland, instead of seeking for more fertile soils in Kentucky, and elsewhere. These gentlemen were the Dorseys, the Ridgeleys, the Worthingtons, the Merriweathers, and others, who, having been in easy circumstances when they



left England, commenced the culture of tobacco on a large scale, which the abundance of labor within their reach, from the slaves brought into the colony from Africa, made a profitable occupation. But all the lands which had been used in this way for many years, became exhausted. Sensible of the probability of their continued unproductiveness, their proprietors had determined on moving their entire families to Kentucky and Tennessee, a laborious and hazardous undertaking from the apparent unsettlement and instability of political affairs in these quarters, then considered as very remote from high civilization; such views, however, induced them to hesitate, and they were still waiting when the fertilizing character of plaster of Paris, and the fine growth of red clover which it produced, was so successfully demonstrated on the hilly fields of Ellicott's Mills, that they determined to remain on the eastern side of the Allegany mountains. The experiments were much talked of, generally tried, and revolutionized the agricultural habits of all the farmers. The Ellicotts received their impression in favor of the use of plaster from a publication in a foreign magazine. The account set forth—that a German farmer, whose lands had become so unproductive from constant tillage, as to yield a poor return for his labor, determined to increase his funds by pounding and grinding plaster for the use of masons,

and for other purposes. The plaster mill was erected in a corner of a field where buckwheat had been sown, and the laborers in attendance at the mill were obliged to cross the field by a path several times a day, to go and return from their meals. Leaving the mill with the dust of the plaster on their clothing, the action of the wind, and the motion made by walking, scattered it on each side of the path, and a remarkable increase in the growth and productiveness of the buckwheat in this part of the field was the consequence. This led to more extended experiments, and afterwards, to the publication of the information in newspapers and magazines.

After testing the use of plaster on the Patapsco hills, Ellicott & Co. imported that fertilizer in blocks from Nova Scotia, built a mill for its manufacture into dust, and kept a supply for sale, and plaster ever since has been admitted by all good farmers, to be an adjunct much to be valued for the permanence of its influence; other fertilizers—bone dust, guano, &c., have since taken precedence; and Maryland continues to be a fine wheat growing country.

We have remarked near the commencement of this essay, that in 1772, very little wheat was grown in Maryland except for family use. It ought, however, to be recorded that James Brooke, of Sandy Spring, entertained opinions in some re-

spects different from those held by his neighbors, and instead of occupying all his cleared land with tobacco, devoted some of his fields to the cultivation of wheat; he had the wheat manufactured into flour in his mill, (of which not a vestige now remains,) which was built on Hawling river, Montgomery county, near its confluence with the Patuxent, as early as 1737. But as wheat flour was not an article of commerce at the time, whilst all the ships which arrived from Europe, needed bread for a supply during their return voyage, he erected a bakery, in which an English baker made and baked ship biscuit of so good a quality as to cause it to be much sought after. This bread was consigned to agents both at Bladensburg, and at Elkridge Landing, as the common depots for its sale; it was also occasionally sent from Elkridge Landing to agents in Joppa; letters from parties at the three places referred to are yet in preservation.

This mill of James Brooke, in Montgomery county, was amongst the first erected in the colony for grinding wheat; for, notwithstanding the early lawgivers of Maryland offered to the people every encouragement for the erection of mills, for a long series of years, there were very few built; hand mills, from the abundance of laborers in consequence of the existence of slavery, being preferred; these gave employment to surplus ser-

vants in seasons of leisure, and “no toll” to use a miller’s expression was exacted for the grinding; amongst the evidences of encouragement given to insure the building of mills, we may see in McSherry’s History of Maryland, that “in 1669, a law was passed, which empowered any man who built a water mill, to take up twenty acres of land on either side of a stream, and hold the same at the valuation of jurors for eighty years, and the “toll” or compensation for grinding was also fixed at the same time, at one-eighth of a bushel of wheat, and one-sixth of a bushel of corn;” few persons availed themselves of the privilege, no one seeming to suppose until after the large supply afforded by the efforts of the Ellicotts, that flour would ever be exported from Maryland.

From all the printed accounts extant, it appears that Jonathan Hauson was the first to avail himself of the privilege given in our extract from McSherry. He built a mill on Jones’ Falls, near what is now the corner of Bath and Holiday streets, in 1711. Of this structure nothing now remains. At a later period, other mills were erected on Jones’ Falls, and in 1761, Joseph Ellicott and Hugh Burgess, of Pennsylvania, built a mill within our present city limits, opposite to the site of the old Baltimore Jail; and, during the same year, the Dismal Mill or Vortex on the Patapsco, was also built. It was within a mile of

Elkridge Landing, and ground corn almost exclusively; occasionally those farmers who did not use hand mills brought their very small crops of wheat to be manufactured into flour. Hood's Mill, some miles above the Vortex, was also built in 1761, but its machinery ground corn only.

We have remarked of the brothers of Ellicott & Co., that they entered earnestly into every plan of improvement which promised to be advantageous to Maryland, and were in the daily habit of visiting Baltimore, after their wharf and warehouses were constructed. When they made their first examination of the counties on the west of the Chesapeake bay, they conceived the idea, from the situation of Baltimore, that at that point a great city would eventually be in existence, and to this future they directed much attention. They were the first advocates of a measure to introduce a good supply of water into Baltimore, a measure in which they were supported by Robert Goodloe Harper, William Cook, Elisha Tyson, John McKim, John Donnel, Robert Gilmore, and other prominent citizens. The water of the wells in the vicinity was then proverbially bad, exceeded in unpleasantness only by that of New York before the introduction of the streams of the Croton.

Evan T. Ellicott, whose acquaintance with the details of the Baltimore Water Company is of a most practical description, and who is at present,



(1865,) a member of the Water Board, has furnished the writer with the following account :

“In the year 1804, an association was formed for the purpose of introducing water into the city of Baltimore. By the recorded proceedings of the Water Company, it appears that a charter was obtained from the Legislature by \*Andrew Ellicott, who, at the time, was a member of the House of Delegates. Jonathan Ellicott was an efficient member of the first Water Board, and for a time its President. His comprehensive mind and perfect knowledge of hydraulics, caused him to urge the plan of damming the water, at a point high up the valley of Jones’ Falls, so as to procure a full supply of water for the city by the natural flow, in order to dispense with all pumping. His plans were rejected by a majority of the Board, and his zeal in the cause attributed to sinister motives, because his connexions of the Tyson and Ellicott families were the proprietors of five or six mill

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\* Andrew Ellicott was, at the time, a partner of his brother, Thomas Ellicott. They were actively and profitably engaged in business as merchant millers on Ellicott’s wharf. He was then the only one of the family in Maryland, who had ventured to enter the arena of politics, and he withdrew from its engrossments on the expiration of his first term of service in the Legislature of Maryland. His election took place in 1803, his constituents were so well satisfied with his fitness for the office that they again and again solicited him to consent to be a candidate for re-election, an honor which he resolutely declined. His father and brothers, who, with himself, were members of the Society of Friends, considered the atmosphere of political life of too stormy a character to be consistent with the quiet principles of his religious profession ; he yielded to their scruples, in the flower of his age, being 29 years old.

sites on the Jones' Falls, which would have been partially used for the purpose. He was so well convinced of the great error then adopted by the Board, of pumping up the supplies of water, that he resigned his position in disgust. The best tribute has within a few years been paid to his memory and to his sound judgment, by the adoption by the Water Board at this late period of the proposition he had offered in 1804."

On the occupation of the lands in the vicinity of the Patapsco, in Baltimore and Anne Arundel counties, by European emigrants, we have said that the valleys near them were filled with wild animals. Amongst these, as objects of peculiar terror, were wild cats. The caverns and rocks in the neighborhood of a small stream, which was called after their name, first by the Indians, and adopted by the white men, furnished these stealthy and destructive animals with hiding places, when others of the large four-footed beasts of the Maryland forests had abandoned the premises. The wild cats habitually came forth at night, and their depredations amongst the young pigs and poultry, caused the early settlers, many of whom were poor, to suffer serious loss. They consequently became eager in the pursuit of them, killed them off, one by one, until in 1780, when the last one of his kind was shot by a Pennsylvanian.

Until after 1800, rabbits, squirrels, opossums and racoons, were caught in snares, or shot in large numbers on the Patapsco, as well as pheasants and partridges; and, with the exception of the opossum and the racoon, (which, though eatable, were never found on the tables of the rich,) were an agreeable and by no means a rare addition to the culinary possessions of the rich, and the poor likewise.

There were also on the river many otters, but the high price given for their skins in market, led to a speedy reduction of their numbers. The last otters seen near Ellicotts' Mills were a pair that had lived unmolested on the island which divides the Patapsco near the Union Cotton Manufactory. They had grown grey with years, and on making their last excursion to the mainland, from their island, in 1806, they were watched on their return home and shot by an Indian, a young Chippaway chief, a pupil of the school we have before referred to. The sons of two of the principal chiefs of the Chickasaw nation were also taught there, having been placed under the care of the Ellicotts, for educational purposes, by the Secretary of War for the United States, who delivered them at the school in person, in 1807.\* We have spoken of the small

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\*These young chiefs when placed at school were about 18 years of age; they were proficient in the use of the bow and arrow, the blow-gun, and other Indian instruments, but their attainments in literature were not remarkable when they returned home.



tributaries to the Patapsco, which the owners of the property suffered to remain overgrown with trees and shrubs in their natural condition. Of these, the Wild Cat branch and the Cold Spring branch were the most attractive, from the huge rocks over which their waters poured, and in many places nearly or quite hid them, and the great trees of evergreen or other species which overshadowed them. The lovers of romantic scenery often resorted to their shade. One of the rocks on the Wild Cat branch was a balancing rock, or "rocking stone," as such were called by the ancient Druids; it was of large size, and so well poised as to rock on a slight touch, yet so securely balanced on its pivot as never to be overthrown. Strangers often turned aside from the public roads to visit it. After the neighborhood became populous, the rock was much frequented by all classes; some, to read in the quiet shade, whilst soothed by the murmur of the waters as they ran beneath, or over its contiguous rocky precipices; others, amused themselves by sitting or standing on the "rocking stone," and enjoying a game of "see-saw." The stone was capable of accommodating several persons on each end, was of an oblong form, somewhat in the shape of the flat-iron in domestic use.

The Wild Cat branch has its union with the Patapsco, near the bridge on the Frederick road over that river; it is a small stream, except when

in flood from heavy rains, when it becomes wild and furious. The Cold Spring branch empties into the Patapsco below the Mills, and derives its name from a remarkably cold spring of water which runs from the foot of a hill near at hand. Its waters were conveyed to the village of Ellicott's Mills, in 1804, and were so abundant as to afford their proprietors a regular supply, by day and night; the wells near them were consequently useless and filled up with sand; but since the decease of the old proprietors the pipes having been disarranged by severe frosts and suffered to go to decay, the wells have been re-opened.

But the beauty and the attractiveness of these small streams have long since passed away; all the rocks which could be made useful, the "rocking stone" amongst them, were blasted by gunpowder for railroad purposes, in 1828 and 1829, and the great trees cut up for machinery and fire wood.

As before remarked, the Ellicotts during their residence in Pennsylvania were millers, and had been millers from their first settlement in that country. They were also the inventors of all the important improvements in mill machinery, and used "elevators" and "hopper boys" in their property, called Pettit's Mills, at Buckingham, as early as 1761, but being willing that all manufacturers of flour should have the free use of their inventions, they declined taking out rights patent

for them. Patent rights, until after the patent office for all the United States was established in Washington, were granted by the different Legislatures.

The liberality of the Ellicotts, respecting their inventions, caused their sons and successors in occupation, the trouble of an expensive lawsuit in opposition to the claims of Oliver Evans, who in the most quiet manner, whilst the rightful proprietors of the improvements were engaged in other pursuits, reported himself before the Maryland Legislature, and representing that he was the original inventor of the "elevator" and the "hopper boy," obtained a patent right for them.

As the subject of patent rights, is one of interest to those who have been concerned in them, annexed is an account presented to the writer, by Philip T. Tyson, which gives very desirable information from public documents.

"An examination of the laws of Maryland as far back as 1632, which have been indexed and officially published, shows that only three patents were granted by Maryland, prior to the adoption of the United States Constitution, when the granting of patents devolved on the General Government.

"In 1784, (ch. 20,) the Legislature granted to James Rumsey, a patent for a new boat for ascending currents in rivers.

“In 1786, (ch. 23,) a patent was granted to Robert Lemmon, for improvements in carding and spinning machines.

“In 1787, (ch. 21,) a patent to Oliver Evans, (21st of May,) for the “elevator” and “hopper boy,” and a “steam carriage,” for fourteen years, with the exclusive right of making and selling within the State. Penalty for first violation, £100, for the second, £200.”

Oliver Evans, who procured this patent from the Legislature of Maryland, had, previously to this event, been in the habit every year of passing several weeks with the hospitable proprietors of Ellicott's Mills, and as their inventions were open to the inspection of every one, he made use of his opportunities to become fully acquainted with their operations. So soon as Ellicott & Co. became aware of what had taken place, they demanded an interview with Oliver Evans, charged him with treachery and concluded all intercourse with him. Averse to litigation from their pacific principles, they suffered his aggressions to pass without further notice, not supposing he would exact from any manufacturer the fine which the Legislature had granted on his behalf.

In this however they were deceived, for in 1812 or 1813, he actually sued them for using his inventions contrary to law, in the mills on the Patapsco, and those more recently erected by them

on Gwynn's Falls. As a means of defence they engaged the most able counsel. Of this trial, Evan T. Ellicott writes: "Oliver Evans was defeated in the courts, and was forced to rest his claim to a patent on the plea of combining the improvements of the Ellicotts, and receiving a patent on this ground, it became a source of great emolument to him."

We will give below further information concerning this suit and trial of the claims of Oliver Evans, gathered from the conversation of Nathan Tyson and Evan T. Ellicott, who were both in daily attendance at court as the trial progressed.

Oliver Evans selected as his counsel William Pinckney and Robert Goodloe Harper. The counsel for the defendants were Richard Ridgley, of Elkridge, and Luther Martin. The court was crowded constantly, as the lawyers on both sides were the most accomplished advocates in the United States. The Ellicotts clearly demonstrated the claim of their fathers, to the inventions taken up by Oliver Evans as his own. Pinckney endeavored to prove that the right which the Ellicotts had possessed, and which he and his coadjutor could not deny had been fully established, had expired by the limitation given to such property; that their client had combined these old inventions, and was justly entitled to payment for his exertions, a plea which strange as it may appear



was admitted by the Court. Ridgley and Martin did not permit this plea to pass unnoticed, remonstrated against it, and declared it to have been the desire of the inventors of this now contested machinery, and also the wish of their sons and representatives, that their inventions should continue to be, as they in the first instance had designed they should be, a gratuity to the millers of their country. After this declaration had been made by the counsel for the defence, Harper asked permission of the Court to cross-examine one of the witnesses who had appeared in favor of the Ellicotts; this was James Gillingham, who had emigrated with them from Pennsylvania, was their intimate friend and associate, a man well versed in literature and science, and particularly informed concerning civil and judicial proceedings. The permission being granted, he said to James Gillingham, "Mr. Gillingham, you have heard the opinion delivered by Messrs. Ridgley and Martin, and appear to be acquainted with all the circumstances connected with the inventions of the Mess. Ellicott; we should like to hear your opinion also; how long did they or do you suppose, that their right to dispense their inventions gratuitously should continue." His reply was characteristic of the family on whose account he spoke and was highly impressive. "How long?" "Forever!"



The conduct of the jurors in this case was greatly censured by all except a few partisans. The verdict as before written was given in favor of Oliver Evans, who pursued with the utmost rigor of the law those who used the inventions, and became a large capitalist thereby.

Before passing from this subject of inventions we may be allowed to remark that the "brake," now used to check the speed of all heavily laden wagons, stage coaches, or vehicles of every kind in going down hill, was first made in this country in the workshops of Ellicott's Mills, and tried on the mill wagons, first, in 1815. A description of the "brake" was given by James Brooke Ellicott, a promising young member of his family, who died on his return voyage from Europe, in his twenty-third year. He saw this simple convenience for the accommodation of travellers in general use in France and Belgium, and sent out a drawing thereof to John Ellicott, who brought it into notice. The old fashioned mode of checking the speed of a wagon in going down hill was by locking one of the wheels by a heavy strong chain.

The workshop in which the brake was first made was carried on by Benjamin Palmer.

Before Oliver Evans entered upon his suit against the Ellicotts, the firm of Ellicott & Co. had changed its members; all the men of the

first company having left the earth. Joseph Ellicott, the senior brother, had withdrawn from the partnership, in 1774, and purchased and improved a site on the Patapsco, three miles above; John Ellicott died suddenly in 1795; and Andrew Ellicott, who had only recently taken up his residence in Maryland, gave his position to his sons, Jonathan, Elias and George Ellicott, and retired from all active participation in their affairs. He had been the financier of the concern, and although but 67 years of age at the time, preferred to leave his sons the undisturbed possession of his interests, and was independent of them. They made an addition to their co-partnership by adding thereto their cousin, John Ellicott, the only son of John Ellicott of the original partnership, without changing the name of the company, or dissolving their union for some years afterward.

In the meantime great changes had taken place in Ellicott's Mills, and its surroundings.

Ellicott's Mills was a small village until 1794, and consisted only of the residences of the proprietors of the estate, and tenements for the clerks, millers, coopers, blacksmiths and wheelwrights, and millwrights of the establishment, and men who were day laborers.

In 1794, Ellicott & Co. disposed of a mill site immediately below them, on the Patapsco, to Thomas Mendenhall, of Philadelphia, who built a

paper mill,\* and numerous other buildings for the accommodation of his men. He gave to Ellicott & Co., in return for this water power and about fifteen acres of land, a mortgage on lands which he owned in Kentucky, being one hundred and ninety-seven thousand acres, partly situated in the forks of the Cumberland river, and also in the coal region of that country. A title to these lands still rests with the descendants of Ellicott & Co.

In 1808, Ellicott & Co. disposed of between eight and nine hundred acres of their Patapsco property, for two miles in extent on each side the river, to the Union Manufacturing Company of Maryland. A large and prosperous village was soon built up there, and filled with people, but the Post Office of the district continued at Ellicott's Mills. They also sold to Samuel Smith, a respectable member of the Society of Friends, seven or eight acres of land for a tan yard; he carried on the business of tanning and currying leather successfully from 1796 to 1838, when he died; and the property has since been given over to other purposes. The wife of Samuel Smith was a fine florist, and cultivated a variety of shrubs and flowers. Her garden was in full view of the Patapsco bridge, and from

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\*The Methodists held meetings for religious worship, and also prayer meetings, in one of the chambers of the Paper Mill for many years. The site has since been sold, and purchased by Edward Gray, and is now Gray's Cotton Manufactory.

the early spring to the beginning of winter was an attractive feature in the landscape, and was often visited and admired by botanical amateurs. Her tulips were remarkably beautiful, and on many different seasons three thousand flowers of this beautiful bulbous root have been blooming in her borders at one time.

An oil mill and a carding mill for wool was built in 1804, by Joseph Atkinson, on property leased by him of Ellicott & Co.; it was erected near the intersection of the road to Sandy Spring, with the Baltimore and Frederick turnpike, and was supplied with water from the Wild Cat branch. His business proved to be useful and profitable, and was continued to the time of his death.

Besides the property above mentioned as having been sold or leased, Ellicott & Co., in 1806, established iron works\* immediately adjoining the property of Samuel Smith, for rolling and slitting bars of iron; they also made nails on a large scale, and exported them to Southern markets. To these establishments they afterwards added machinery for the manufacture of iron for wrought iron utensils of many kinds; they likewise put up a furnace and rolling mill for sheathing copper; all these manufactures were executed in the best style and were remunerative, but their owners were too libe-

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\*Sold in 1834, and now the seat of the Granite Cotton Mills.

ral in their expenditure, (giving freely of their means wherever they could be useful,) to amass great riches; indeed, with one exception, Jonathan Ellicott, the senior brother of the firm, who left a large estate, the remaining partners died possessed of very moderate fortunes. They lived handsomely and were to all travellers and strangers hospitable in an unusual degree, entertaining them and their horses, as a gratuity, with great pleasure.\*

The laborers of these different works added largely to the population; they were mostly Europeans, and many of them from Wales. The number of inhabitants in the village of Ellicott's Mills and its vicinity to within the compass of a mile, including the different operatives in the manufactories, from 1810 to 1825, was said to exceed three thousand.

To accommodate the people of their own faith, who lived in the neighborhood, and likewise those persons who, without any decided preference for

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\*George Elliott who has been spoken of in some of the first pages of this account as having laid out the lines of the road between Baltimore and Frederick, a route which has ever since continued in favor, was one of the best mathematicians, and also one of the finest amateur astronomers of the time, and was fond of imparting instruction to every youthful enquirer after knowledge who came to his house. As early as the year 1782, during the fine clear evenings of autumn, he was in the habit of giving gratuitous lessons on astronomy to any of the inhabitants of the village who wished to hear him. To many of these, his celestial globe was an object of great interest and curiosity. He was perfectly at home on a map of the heavens, as far as the telescopes, and writers of his time had given revelations. George Elliott died in 1832.



Quakerism, were yet desirous of assembling in congregated worship with the members of a sect, whose principles sets them at liberty from the forms and expense of a church establishment, Ellicott & Co. built a meeting house on a hill, on the western side of the Patapsco, now known as Elkridge Meeting House, entirely at their own expense, except a voluntary contribution from Samuel Smith and Samuel Godfrey, of about sixty dollars. On its completion, they presented the Meeting House to the monthly meeting of the Friends of Baltimore, to be held in trust as a place of worship by the Society, and at the same time accompanied the gift with a deed of the land on which the house was built, and about four acres of the surrounding ground for a graveyard and other purposes of convenience. The deed bears date 1800. It was in this year that the old Elkridge Meeting House, which tradition informs us, had been occupied as a place of worship as early as 1670, was abandoned with regret, by those that loved its rural situation and quiet shade, the trees in its vicinity being unusually large; but the old building was small and uncomfortable, and except for a few families, could only be approached by crossing the Patapsco; the convenient situation therefore of the new meeting house removed all objections. Many of the most respectable Friends in the Society were married in the old meeting



house, and amongst them were James Carey, who was a convert to the faith, and who married Martha Ellicott; on this occasion, the bride and groom, with their attendants, were all on horseback. James Gillingham, (whom we have alluded to on a former page as a witness on behalf of the Ellicotts on their trial with Oliver Evans,) and Elizabeth Hayward were also married there. Elizabeth Hayward was the daughter of William Hayward, an esteemed minister of the Society of Friends, who lived at the time, and for many previous years had lived, within walking distance of this meeting house. In reference to William Hayward, we would also note the fact that he was the only minister ever produced from amongst the Friends of Elkridge meeting. After he removed in the evening of his life to Baltimore, the meetings, which were generally large, were held in silence, except when Friends, who were out on missions, from a love of the Gospel, called in on meeting days, (meetings were held on the first day of the week, and on the fourth day following,) or held appointed meetings at other times. On such occasions no pains was spared to give information throughout the neighborhood to the gentry and small farmers, besides the people of the villages, and the attendance of all there was respectable; the meeting house sometimes being crowded and many outside.

At the first meeting for worship held in the new Elkridge Meeting House, Joseph Thornburg and Cassandra Ellicott were married, according to the order of the Society of Friends; it was a meeting of peculiar solemnity, a large company was in attendance, and the ceremony was repeated in an impressive manner. Joseph Thornburg was the senior partner of the house of Thornburg, Miller & Webster, of Baltimore, a mercantile house of great respectability, and Cassandra Ellicott was the widow of John Ellicott, of the first house of Ellicott & Co. He died, as before related, in 1795, and his widow, five years after as we have seen, married Joseph Thornburg.\*

Many other members of Society were afterwards married within those walls, and, until 1816, a large number of Friends were in attendance on their days for religious worship; from that year, however, by the removal of many Friends to Ohio, to Pennsylvania, to Baltimore, and elsewhere, and we may add by the decease of some of the oldest and most influential Friends of the vicinity, the meetings gradually became less, until finally, after the death of Samuel Smith and Ezra Fell, who, for several years, had been the only male representatives of Quakerism in the neighborhood, the

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\*At this period one hundred and twenty Friends were members of the Elkridge Preparative Meeting, and reported monthly to Baltimore Monthly Meeting.

meeting house was closed. Elizabeth Ellicott, relict of George Ellicott, in 1840, in order for its preservation had the house covered with tin, and caused this roof with all the external woodwork to be painted at her own expense.

In speaking of the partnership entered into by Joseph, Andrew and John Ellicott, in 1772, and the formation of a new partnership in consequence of the death of John Ellicott, in 1795, we mentioned that Joseph had retired from the first firm of Ellicott & Co., in 1774. He afterwards purchased a mill site, on which a small mill had been built some years before for grinding Indian corn. It was beautifully situated, three miles above the first purchase, and had more level ground around it, the hills were less precipitous and could, consequently, be improved with less trouble.

Joseph Ellicott tore down the old mill and built another, which was furnished with all the latest inventions of the family; he being, however, the finest practical genius of the name. He also built a store house for merchandise, stables for his horses, and houses for the accommodation of his laborers, and a dwelling for himself. Before the mill sites were purchased on the Patapsco, in 1772, Joseph Ellicott had been, as we have already mentioned, engaged with Hugh Burgess, also of Pennsylvania, in the manufacture of flour, in a

mill they purchased on Jones' Falls, within what is now the city limits, but of which not a vestige remains. Having received a legacy from the estate of his grandfather, of Callumpton, England, it became necessary for him to report himself in that country to receive it; he accordingly sold his interest in the mill on Jones' Falls, crossed the Atlantic, and spent part of the years 1766 and 1767 in the British Islands. Having been devoted to mechanical studies and pursuits from childhood, he had produced already several beautiful pieces of mechanism; but his greatest achievement in this way was a fine repeating watch, which he had made without instruction, and which was an admirable time-keeper. This watch he took with him to England, and having letters of recommendation to respectable gentlemen there, his watch was the means of his introduction to men of science. In this way he became acquainted with the distinguished mathematician and astronomer, Dr. Ferguson, who showed him much kindness, and took him with him in his coach to visit many places of interest, and the scientific men of his acquaintance, and introduced him to the Royal Philosophical Society whilst in session.

Having improved his tastes by observation in England, he built his residence on the Patapsco, in a style of comfort and simplicity, not often combined at the period of which we write. He filled

his garden with rare and beautiful plants, and shrubs, and flowers, and in the midst of them placed a fountain which, continually, night and day, sent forth a stream of water, ten feet high, and afterwards fell into a pond which was filled with fish. Two stories of his dwelling were also furnished with water from the same sources in the adjoining hills, which supplied the fountain.

But the great wonder of the establishment was the four-faced musical clock which he constructed shortly after his return from England, and which he now set up in an apartment he had prepared for its accommodation. This clock combined the most delicate and accurate movements with the most admirable simplicity. We add the following account of this fine specimen of the ingenuity and science of Joseph Ellicott, from the hand of his grandson, Charles W. Evans, of Buffalo, State of New York.

“The case of the clock is of mahogany, in the shape of a four sided pillar or column, neatly though plainly finished, and on the capitol is the clock, with four faces, it being designed to stand in the middle of an apartment, or a sufficient distance from the wall, to enable the observer to walk around it. On one face is represented the sun, moon and all the planets moving in their different orbits, as they do in the heavens. On another face are the hands which designate the hours,

minutes, days, weeks, months and years, the years representing one century. On the third face are marked twenty-four musical tunes\* of the times previous to the American Revolution; in the centre of this face is a pointer, which being placed against any named tune, this tune is repeated every fifteen minutes until the pointer is moved to another. On the fourth face is a plate of glass, through which you see the curious mechanism of the clock.

“The clock was constructed in Buck’s county, Pennsylvania, about the year 1769. Joseph Ellicott, in its construction, was assisted by his son, Andrew Ellicott, a youth of 15 years of age, who, afterwards, fulfilled important trusts under the government of the United States, and died, professor of mathematics in the Military Academy of West Point, in 1820.”

Besides his great clock, Joseph Ellicott brought with him, from Pennsylvania, several others of

\*The following are the musical tunes alluded to above:

Lady’s Anthem,	Bellisle’s March,
Capt. Read’s Minuet,	The Hemp Dresses,
Lady Coventry’s Minuet,	Harvest Home,
Address to Sleep,	The Pilgrim,
The Hounds are all out,	Ballancea’s Strain,
Willingham’s Frolic,	King of Prussia’s March,
The Lass with a delicate air,	Lovely Nancy,
Humors of Wapping,	The Mason’s Health,
Come, Brave Boys,	Nancy Dawson,
Seamen’s Hymn,	Lads and Lassies,
God save the King,	Black Sloven,
————— (Illegible.)	————— (Illegible.)



small size, (all of them musical on a limited scale, but without astronomical fixtures,) which, afterwards, became the property of his nephews, and are still in Maryland. He likewise placed in the gable end of his house, looking toward the public road, a plain round clock which struck the hours and served to inform the passer-by of the time of day, a great accommodation to persons having business on the road to Frederick, pocket watches at that time being little used by country people. Sun dials were in common use.

The first road opened from Frederick to Baltimore passed immediately through Joseph Ellicott's purchase on the Patapsco, and had been a public road before 1760. Frederick was then always called Frederick-Town, and continued to be thus distinguished until it became a city. It was settled in 1749, by a company of respectable and enterprising Germans from the Palatinate, and was made up of farmers, tanners, saddle and harness makers, shoe makers, and workers in iron, wool and flax. As the lands of their selection were of great fertility, all the operations of the company prospered from the first, and in consequence of an exception made in their favor by the British Government, (an exception, however, unacknowledged by any law which appeared in print,) the people of Frederick carried on an extensive trade with the inhabitants of Georgia. Georgia had been occu-

pied by Gen'l Oglethorpe's colony, in 1733, and when the Germans of Frederick had established their different manufactures, and had various commodities for sale, the people of Georgia had become a numerous body, and were, from reports which had reached them, ready to receive the productions of Frederick, and pay for them.

The goods sent from Frederick were carried on "pack horses," and the returns brought back in the same way. It has not been recorded how long a time was occupied, in going and returning over this long route. The articles sent from Frederick usually were boots and shoes, saddles and all kinds of harness, fine woolen goods, sheeting and table linen, and counterpanes made of flaxen and woolen thread. The returns were made in indigo, in cotton and in money. The drivers of the "pack horses," were chosen for their experience and hardihood, and were occasionally obliged to defend themselves and their companions from the attacks of the Indians, who, particularly after the defeat of Gen'l Braddock, in 1755, until the peace of Paris, in 1763, were great disturbers of the harmony of the frontiers.

Frederick likewise traded largely with the trading posts of the Ohio Company, the first post being on the Potomac, at Cumberland.

For the information introduced relative to the settlement of Frederick, its manufactures and trade

with Georgia, the writer of this narrative is indebted to a manuscript presented by Dr. Michael Baer, of that city. He is descended from one of the first German families who came out in 1749, and his relation is fully sustained by other gentlemen similarly circumstanced.

Roads had been opened from Frederick to Baltimore, passable for wagons laden with freight, as we have said, before 1760, and as before stated, a road from Frederick to Annapolis for transporting tobacco and flaxseed had been made the same year.

Joseph Ellicott was a man of uncommon mental and physical powers, and was far in advance of most of his cotemporaries, in his views for the promotion of health and usefulness. His life promised to continue to be a great ornament and blessing to society, but from a severe cold contracted in the year 1780, he died of pleurisy after a few days illness—aged 48 years.

The great clock remained with his widow, Judith Ellicott, in the hall where it was placed when brought from Pennsylvania, until 1803, when she gave it to her son, Joseph Ellicott, who then resided in Batavia, New York, and was the agent of the Holland Land Company. He placed it in his house, in the centre of a large octagonal drawing-room, constructed for the purpose of exhibiting its operations advantageously, and it

remained there till his death, in 1826, when it became the property of his favorite nephew, David E. Evans, who, having accompanied his uncle from Maryland, when but a youth, became, in time, a prominent citizen of Batavia, and was once chosen a representative to Congress. The clock is now in the possession of Catherine Evans, the widow of David E. Evans, who resides in Albany, where it may be seen in fine outward preservation, but the artists of this day have, it has been said, failed to adjust the machinery of the orrery, which stands immovable.

In looking over the preceding pages, I find that no allusion has been made, in its proper place, to the concern exhibited by humane citizens of every class for the preservation of the aborigines of this country. I, therefore, present the following facts, in connection with this movement in Maryland.

The Indians, in nearly every instance, welcomed the white men to their shores, and seemed desirous of living in friendship with them; it is also recorded of Roger Williams and William Penn that they were interested in preserving this friendship. This feeling, however, was not shared by many of the European emigrants. Almost from the time of making their first settlements they have continued to press the Red people, further and further,

toward the West. After the conclusion of the Revolutionary war, and the establishment of the United States Government, the sympathies of all reflecting philanthropists were aroused on their behalf, and very especially so, when, after the victory gained over the tribes, northwest of the river Ohio, by Gen'l St. Clair, in 1794, the principal chiefs accepted propositions of peace, signed a treaty with the United States, and declared themselves in favor of civilization. Amongst the religious communities of Maryland, the members of the Society of Friends were the first to remonstrate with the authorities of the United States on behalf of these deeply injured savages, and to protest against the wrongs, which unprincipled and designing men had heaped upon them. The Ellicotts shared with active zeal, in the movement made by the Friends of the Yearly Meeting of Baltimore on their account, and were frequently sent on missions to the City of Washington, either to endeavor by wise admonitions delivered to the different officials of the United States Government, to inaugurate more generous feelings toward them, or to present petitions for their relief. We append, in illustration of our assertion, short extracts from a letter written by George Ellicott to his wife, Elizabeth Ellicott; he was then in Washington, with other Friends, members of the Indian Committee of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, in order to present a petition to Congress.

“WASHINGTON, 4th of 1st Mo: 1801.

“—— We reached Washington last evening, dining pleasantly at John Chew Thomas’ at noon; it rained slowly to the end of our ride, but we did not get wet.” (The party was on horseback.) “This morning we called on the Indians, the Little Turtle with his brother Chiefs, and their interpreter, William Wells. They seemed well pleased to see us. We then waited on the Secretary of War, and, afterwards, on the President of the United States, (John Adams,) who received us in a very friendly manner, and says he shall do all he can to put a stop to the introduction of liquor amongst the Indians. We then called on Gen’l Smith,” (a Senator in Congress from Baltimore,) “he thinks it will not be advisable to hand in our memorial, until the house has got through the business of the census, with which it is now engaged, and the next day after to-morrow we expect to hand it in. We are at Rhodes’ Tavern, rooms to ourselves, and a good fire.”

The following is the memorial referred to above:

\*“*To the Congress of the United States:*

“The memorial of the Committee appointed for Indian Affairs, by the Yearly Meeting of Baltimore, respectfully represents:

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\* Two months after this memorial was presented to Congress, Thomas Jefferson became our Chief Magistrate.



“That a concern to introduce amongst some of the Indian Tribes, northwest of the river Ohio, the most simple and useful arts of civil life, having been for several years laid before our Yearly Meeting, a committee was appointed by that body, to visit them, to examine their situation, and endeavor to ascertain in what manner so desirable a purpose might be effected. A part of that committee, after having obtained the approbation of the United States, proceeded to perform the service assigned them, and the result of their enquiries and observations, as reported to the Yearly Meeting, was, that the quantity of spirituous liquors, with which the Indians are supplied by the traders and frontier settlers, must counteract every measure, however wise and salutary, which may be devised for the improvement of their situation.

“The truth of this assertion is abundantly confirmed, by a speech made before us, by the Little Turtle, a Miama Chief, (of which we herewith transmit a copy for your consideration,) and we also acknowledge our belief, that the evil is of such magnitude, that unless it can be altogether removed, or greatly restrained, no rational hope of success in the proposed undertaking can be entertained. We are, therefore, induced to solicit the attention of the National Legislature to this interesting and important subject, which we con-

sider involves, not only their future welfare, but even their very existence as a people.

“Signed on behalf of the Committee by  
 EVAN THOMAS,                    JOHN MCKIM,  
 ELIAS ELLICOTT,                JOEL WRIGHT, and  
 JOHN BROWN,                    GEORGE ELLICOTT.”

Two of the Friends who signed the petition, Evan Thomas and George Ellicott, had been on a mission to the Indians on the Plains of Sandusky, in 1799. Several other Friends were of the party; from Cumberland to Sandusky, they slept in tents, which they carried with them on pack-horses, that also carried their provision, clothing, and other comforts.

George Ellicott was the author of the memorial to Congress.

For this speech of the Little Turtle, and other facts in connection with the efforts of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, for the civilization of the Indians northwest of the river Ohio, the reader is referred to the appendix to the Journal of Gerard T. Hopkins,\* of a mission accomplished by himself and George Ellicott, to Fort Wayne, by the appointment of the Indian Committee of Baltimore Yearly Meeting. On this occasion they took with them and established in the Indian country, a practical farmer, Philip Dennis; also, a carpenter and black-

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\* Of the City of Baltimore.

smith, who were designed to instruct the red people in their different arts. This occurred in 1804, and until the commencement of the war between the United States and Great Britain, notwithstanding many intervening discouragements, the Friends still hoped for the advancement of the Indians in habits of civilization. But, after hostilities began, conflicting opinions appeared in the tribes; some of them espoused the British cause and remained in its interests until after the contest was over, when the hostile chiefs, at a council held in New York, agreed to return to the United States, and give in their allegiance.

Emma Willard, in her *American Republic*, gives the following information, which we add in conclusion.

“After the inauguration of James Monroe, in 1817, the Indians of Ohio ceded all their lands within its limits to the United States; they were allowed by the conditions of cession, to remain on the lands subject to the laws of the United States; but very few of them embraced this alternative; the rest chose to emigrate beyond the Mississippi. The history of the red people from this period is full of sad interest.”











